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the Police Constable fired two rounds, and the crowd dispersed. Two persons are reported to have sustained gunshot wounds.

" (b) Adequate Police personnel have been stationed in the area to prevent violation of Indian territory."

Sri V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" Have the French authorities made any apologies for the irregularities committed by the French Police and the goondas acting under their instigation? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government of India have been attending to this matter at a higher level. There can be no question of extracting apologies at a lower level."

Sri V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" Has the Hon. the Minister submitted diplomatic representations through the Central Government regarding these incidents, Sir? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Union Government have been seized of this matter and they have been taking appropriate action."

Sri V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" Have the Government any information, Sir, that the French Government is relinquishing its authority over these territories by the 15th August? " 11-10 a.m.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, this Government have no such information at present."

Sri A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" *பிரஞ்சுப் போலீஸார் சுட்டதன் காரணமாக எவ்வளவு பேர்கள் உயிர் இழந்தார்கள் ? எவ்வளவு பேர்கள் காயம் அடைந்தார்கள் ?* "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Government give an assurance that hereafter if French Police or Military personnel come into our territory they will be arrested and detained and dealt with properly? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not think any such assurance is necessary. This Government have been taking adequate action in the matter."

Number of cases of cholera registered in the Cuddalore Headquarters Hospital.

* 70 *Q.*—Sri M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of cases of cholera registered in the Cuddalore Headquarters Hospital during the years 1951–52, 1952–53 and 1953–54; and

(*b*) whether there is any isolation ward in the Cuddalore Headquarters Hospital, and if not, the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The number of cases of cholera registered in the Government Headquarters Hospital during the last three years is as follows:—

1951–52	172
1952–53	180
1953–54	303

" (*b*) There is an isolation ward in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Cuddalore."

Congestion in the Government hospitals in the City of Madras.

* 71 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government hospitals in the City of Madras are overcrowded;

(*b*) if so, since when; and

(*c*) the action taken by the Government so far to remove the congestion in these hospitals and with what results?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) For some years past, Sir.

" (*c*) The congestion in the hospitals has been relieved to some extent by adopting the following measures :—

(1) Wherever possible, accommodation and bed-strength of the hospitals have been increased.

(2) More facilities have been and are being provided in the out-patient department of the hospitals for carrying out investigations necessary for the proper medical examination of patients, thereby reducing the number of admissions for in-patient treatment.

(3) Patients are kept in the hospitals only for the period which is considered absolutely necessary."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that there is a hospital order that no ward or unit should have more than 25 per cent extra beds and in spite of repeated circulars that have been sent by the Dean of the hospital, no medical officer has cared to reduce the extra bed-strength under him. The order is honoured more in the breach than in the observance? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is great demand for admissions and Superintendents of hospitals are afraid of public opinion in this matter. Instructions have been sent to them to see that the excess number of patients admitted to the hospitals is not more than 25 per cent over and above the sanctioned bed-strength. I hope day by day they will be able to reduce the excess number to be admitted to the hospitals."